



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2860.0637-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Norikazu ARAI et al.) Group Art Unit: Not Assigned
)
Application No.: 10/612,019) Examiner: Unassigned
)
Filed: July 3, 2004)
)
For: OPTICAL PICKUP APPARATUS,)
RECORDING/REPRODUCING)
APPARATUS PROVIDED WITH)
THE OPTICAL PICKUP)
APPARATUS, OPTICAL)
ELEMENT, AND INFORMATION)
RECORDING/REPRODUCING)
METHOD)
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed U.S. Patents were previously submitted in prior application, application no. 09/487,928, filing date January 20, 2000, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Applicants also wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner the following co-pending applications:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u>
09/487,928	January 20, 2000	02860.0637-00
09/791,889	February 26, 2001	02860.0637-01
10/612,056	July 3, 2003	02860.0637-03
10/611,920	July 3, 2003	02860.0637-04
10/612,168	July 3, 2003	02860.0637-05
10/743,110	December 23, 2003	02860.0637-06

These applications all have the same specification and drawings as the current application. This application claims priority to Application No. 09/487,928. The remaining applications are continuations of Application No. 09/487,928, and for the Examiner's convenience, the preliminary amendments from each of those applications is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

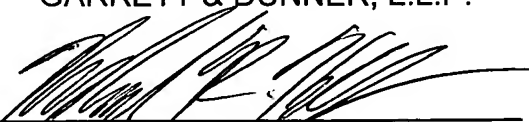
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

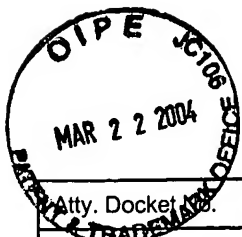
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 22, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Kelly", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	2860.0637-02	Appln. No.	10/612,019
Applicant	Norikazu ARAI et al.		
Filing Date	July 3, 2003	Group:	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,363,046	March, 2000	Yoo et al.			
	6,337,841	January, 2002	Kim et al.			
	6,154,443	November, 2000	Hoshino et al.			
	6,084,843	July, 2000	Hayashi et al.			
	5,903,536	May, 1999	Lee et al.			
	5,889,748	March, 1999	Shimano et al.			
	5,696,750	December, 1997	Katayama, Ryuichi			
	5,777,803	July, 1998	Ju et al.			
	6,192,021	February, 2001	Saito et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 09/791,889, filed February 26, 2001.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/612,056, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/612,168, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/611,920, filed July 3, 2003.
	Preliminary Amendment for U.S. Patent Application No. 10/743,110, filed December 23, 2003.
Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce